

Policy and Criteria Related to the County Operation, Maintenance or Ownership of Municipal Water or Sewer Facilities

1. Premise:
 - a. As a regional unit of government, the County receives requests from local units of government to assume ownership, operation or maintenance of their water or sewer facilities.
2. Decision-Making Process:
 - a. The County should only consider assuming the ownership, operation, or maintenance of the water or sewer system of a unit of local government serving portions of Lake County upon a request from such unit of local government (an "Assumption Request").
 - b. In order to give appropriate consideration to an Assumption Request, the County must thoroughly review and analyze such request.
 - c. The analysis should be based on fiscal, operational and organizational impacts and benefits.
 - d. The County has no obligation to accept an Assumption Request, as a decision to do so is strictly discretionary.
3. Criteria Associated with Operation, Maintenance or Ownership of Water/Sewer Facilities:
 - a. The County is not a public utility and as such is not obligated to provide water/sewer services to local units of government or to accept an Assumption Request.
 - b. In making decisions related to an Assumption Request, the County should evaluate the impacts and benefits from a fiscal, operational and practical perspective. The criteria to be considered include, but are not limited to the following factors.
 - i. Structural condition of system facilities.
 - ii. Fiscal condition of system facilities.
 - iii. Available and committed capacity of system facilities.
 - iv. Whether the water/sewer system is tributary to County facilities.
 - v. Availability of County staff, equipment and resources to provide adequate operation and maintenance services.
 - vi. Consistency of system facilities with County design and construction standards.
 - vii. Benefits/advantages to County for assuming operation, maintenance or ownership obligations of water/sewer facilities
 - c. The unit of local government making the Assumption Request shall provide data and information to the County for their review and consideration as to whether the County should assume ownership, operation or maintenance of municipal water or sewer facilities. The data and information to be provided by the unit of local government must include, but are not limited to the following items.
 - i. Complete an organized set of maps, plats and easements of utilities, right-of-ways and facilities demonstrating requestor's ownership and legal rights to the facilities associated with the request.
 - ii. Design plans and record drawings for the facilities associated with the request.
 - iii. Maintenance and repair records of the facilities including recent sanitary sewer televising documents.
 - iv. Records of annual cash flow, customer delinquencies, outstanding debt payments or liens, rate information, special service areas, as well as other financial records.
 - v. Agreements in force relating to the local government's system.
 - vi. Any other information deemed necessary by the County to evaluate the request.